

## Bonhomme, Penny

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**From:** katieg@bridgeport.edu  
**Sent:** Friday, March 16, 2012 3:00 PM  
**To:** PHC Testimony  
**Subject:** Support ADHP

The advanced dental hygiene practitioner would:

- Provide primary and secondary preventive oral health care.
- Be built on the scientific knowledge and evidence based skills founded in prevention based on the philosophy of a visionary dentist, Dr. Alfred C. Fones in Bridgeport, CT in 1913
- Be competent in working with populations with special needs.
- Be able to evaluate oral health needs of populations with limited access to care.
- Develop, implement and monitor oral health care programs for at risk populations.
- Participate as a member of a comprehensive health care team to;
- Improve oral health for all
- Address oral health as an integral part of general health
- Develop a unified strategy for oral health improvement
- Promote the social value of oral health
- Provide cost effective solutions in public health setting
- The ADHP (Advanced Dental Hygiene Practitioner) will be built upon the knowledge and skills of the RDH (Registered Dental Hygienist) ... just as ...
- The nurse practitioner (APRN) was built upon knowledge and skills of the PH nurse and
- answered the need for cost-efficient, easily accessible primary health care in rural, underserved areas

The ADHP, as a midlevel provider, will help to overcome many barriers to health care; Financial -- Transportation -- Special Needs -- Age -- Cultural -- Access to Providers -- Education

The ADHP will create a wider access to health care, which is needed now more than ever. The United States has reached its highest unemployment level (and, to coincide, lowest health care and dental care insured) ever this year. This is one step in the right direction to be able to provide the care to those who DESPERATELY need it!